

Governor's Commission on Family Farms

September 21, 1999

Kentucky History Center, Frankfort

10:00 AM EST

Members present: Jim Naive, Chairman; Karen Armstrong-Cummings; Bill Atkins; Alice Baesler; Ron Catchen; John-Mark Hack; Don Halcomb; Mark Haney; Susan Harkins; Denise Hoffman; Janet Johnson; David Kash; Chris Kummer; Sylvia Lovely; Luther Mason; Al Pedigo; Stephen Price; William Brandon Reed; Mike Stivers for Commissioner Billy Ray Smith; and Bob Sparks.

Absent were: John Berry; Sharon Furches; Hampton "Hoppy" Henton; Paul Hornback; Mattie Mack; Ken Mattingly; John Medley Jr.; and Secretary Allen Rose.

Guests included: Mac Stone, Manager of the Kentucky State University (KSU) Research Farm; Marion Simon, KSU; Dr. Harold Benson, Director of the Land Grant Program, Cooperative Extension Program, KSU; Rebeckah Freeman, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Sharon Burton, Farmers Pride; Jessica Call, Commodity Growers Cooperative; Chuck Wolfe, Associated Press; Gaines M. Greene, Kentucky Sheep and Wool Products; and John Stevenson, Kentucky Cattlemen's Association.

Chairman Naïve called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the April 12 meeting were approved as written.

Chairman Naïve welcomed the new members to the Commission.

The first order of business was to elect a chairman for the upcoming year. Chairman Naïve opened the floor for nominations. A motion was made and seconded to elect Mr. Naïve to serve as chairman. Upon discussion Karen Armstrong-Cummings asked Mr. Naïve if he would be willing to accept the responsibility of Chairman. Mr. Naïve stated that he would serve. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations. The motion passed. A motion was made and seconded to elect Mr. Naïve as chairman. The motion passed.

John-Mark Hack introduced Joel Neaveill and Lisa Thomas, two new members of his staff at the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy, who will be working with the Commission.

Chairman Naïve introduced the Commission members and asked the guests to introduce themselves.

First Annual Report
The Kentucky Center for Agricultural Entrepreneurship*:

John-Mark Hack assured the group that the report contained nothing that had not previously been approved by the Commission and that all of the members' recommendations had been incorporated into the report. Any changes made to the first draft, were editorial in nature. Mr. Hack reminded the group that because of time constraints, it was important to concentrate on the report and not let discussion wander to other topics. After lengthy discussion, and numerous amendments, the Commission voted to adopt the report as amended.

Chairman Naïve thanked the members for all of their hard work and reminded them that there was a tremendous task ahead, which is to "sell" the ideas incorporated in the report. He encouraged them to contact their legislators and "talk it up" to farmers at every opportunity.

The Commission recessed for lunch.

The meeting reconvened at 1:50.

John-Mark Hack reviewed the agenda for the 3:00 press conference, at which, Chairman Naïve will present the report to Governor Patton.

Chairman Naïve recognized Bill Atkins. She stated that the Commission had worked hard for the past year and should support the recommendations of the Annual Report by following-up with legislators and educating them on the recommendations. Once the Center for Agricultural Entrepreneurs becomes a reality, it will be important to highly publicize at least two successful projects.

Karen Armstrong-Cummings asked the chairman to transmit a copy of the report to all legislators and ask to be allowed to present the report at legislative meetings. Chairman Naïve stated that he was concerned that may give the impression that the Commission was lobbying the legislature. John-Mark Hack suggested that Governor Patton make that decision.

Other Business:

Next Chairman Naïve asked if the Commission members were interested in meeting monthly as opposed to quarterly. The members were in agreement.

Chairman Naïve suggested that the October meeting be held in Elizabethtown.

Ron Catchen provided an outline of the ***Farm Family Education Program****. He then briefed the Commission on the outline, advising that this was a result of the work of the Education Subcommittee since April. There was discussion. Because

of time constraints Chairman Naïve advised the members that the Education Program would be on the October meeting agenda.

Chairman Naïve asked that thank you letters be sent to the Kentucky History Center, Governor & Mrs. Patton, and Rex Lyons at the Governor's Mansion.

- With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30. Members proceeded to the Capitol for the presentation of the annual report to Governor Patton.

*Copies of materials are on file in the Commission on Family Farms meeting folder located in the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy.